

Adult Education Advisory Committee
November 10, 2004
Utah State Office of Education
Room 241
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Approved Minutes

PRESENT: Members: James Andersen (chair), Kim Dohrer (past chair), Paula Oakey (chair elect), Suzette Hudson, Cindy Krueger, Don Uchida, Edie Mitko, Wayne Mifflin, Norman Nakamura, Edwin Espinel, Herb Clark, Mary Ann Parkinson, Virginia Sanchez, Hector Mendiola, Dave Steele, Shauna South, Sandi Grant, Jeff Galli, David Frost (guest), Murray Meszaros (USOE staff) and Gail Burningham (secretary).

EXCUSED: Don Carpenter, Sandra Grant and David Peterson

Welcome and Introductions

The Adult Education Advisory meeting was held November 10, 2004 at the Utah State Office of Education in room 241. James Andersen welcomed everyone. Everyone introduced him/herself and stated the group they represent.

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes from the October 10, 2004 meeting were reviewed. A motion to approve October's minutes was made by Edie Mitko. Wayne Mifflin seconded the motion and the minutes were approved.

PowerPoint Presentation Revision

The revised version of the PowerPoint presentation was handed out for committee members to review. This presentation is going to be sent to the directors, business people and representatives from community-based organization to educate and promote adult education.

Election Information

Dave Steele presented election information. He had two draft letters, one to be sent to the individuals whom Governor Huntsman will appoint as department heads (directors) requesting that they meet with us in the near future. We would also like these department heads to meet with the state adult education directors and community-based organizations leaders to discuss adult education services and funding. The second letter will be sent to President Lane Beattie and the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce, again, to address the services and needs of adult education and invite them to meet with us.

Dave informed us of leadership changes in the state legislature. Representative Curtis has ties to both Charter Schools and adult education and has experience working with both groups. Senator Valentine, now President of the Senate, is supportive of both adult education and English as a second language.

The committee should decide how the PowerPoint presentations should be promoted. They plan to invite Governor Huntsman's new directors of the following departments: Human Services, Health, Workforce Services, Community and Economic Development, Rehab and Corrections, to

a meeting where we can make a presentation on adult education and show the PowerPoint presentation. Giving them the option to choose between two different meeting dates and having a luncheon afterwards, so that we can interact and develop a relationship with them, was suggested. Also it was suggested that if we have additional adult education directors at this meeting, that we coach them on the issues. It was suggested that Governor Huntsman's department heads may be more comfortable meeting with us after they meet with their advisors since several of them will be new to their position. It was suggested that we meet with the analyst or possibly the Governor's entire cabinet. The present plan is to give them two meeting date options. This committee is planning to send a letter to the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce and will encourage directors throughout the state to meet with their local Chamber of Commerce.

National Center for Family Literacy

Shauna presented information about the effects of education on a child's achievement. Handouts presented some unbelievable information that we will incorporate into our PowerPoint presentation. The information also stimulated a conversation on why it is important to market and sell adult education and enlighten others as to how communities can benefit through adult education. Information highlights are as follows. Eighty-two percent of children whose parents do not have a high school degree live in low-income families. There is a huge disparity between reading, math and general knowledge achievement between those who do not have a high school diploma and those with some college, high school equivalent and bachelor's degree. Shauna will try to get some Utah figures on the achievement and impact of adult education in our state.

Information on Underemployed / Unemployed

Suzette made a presentation on underemployed and unemployed data by county for the state of Utah. She pointed out how the data is available by county and how adult educators can access the information. The web site is <http://www.jobs.utah.gov>. It shows employers, jobs, wages and outlook for jobs. It also explains five star jobs and has a link to careers.utah.gov (also a site you should access).

Suzette's presentation could be made at the annual adult education director's meeting.

GED and 16 year olds

Murray gave a presentation on the GED and 16 year olds. His handout summarized the information on those states that give the test to 16 year olds. Half of the states do not require parent's permission and half of them do not require the school district to certify that the student is not enrolled in school.

Other factors that are involved in those states which give the GED test to 16 year-olds are as follows: Five of the twelve states require the student to pass an official practice test, such as the TABE 7-8 or the official GED practice test. Five of the states allow students to take the test if they are 16 years old and married, or 16 years old and court ordered or legally emancipated. Three require a 90-day withdrawal from school before they are allowed to take the test. Three require the student be enrolled in adult education and pass the official GED. Three require the school districts permission. In one state if students are expelled or pregnant they are allowed to take the test. Other state requirements are: a student being enrolled in JBHO, enrolled in adult basic education, in Job Corps or in jail; a letter from the school and or parents stating that the GED is best for the child, a letter stating why the student is withdrawn, the student is at least one

year behind in high school credit, proof of home schooling and an institution (military) requests it in behalf of the student.

After the GED information was presented, the advisory committee determined that they are comfortable with the current guidelines in our state with regard to 16 year olds taking the GED.

GED and UPASS

Dave reported on GED and UPASS and stated that adults would be required to take the U-BSCT. They can take it three times. There is a bill file open to change to law so that adults could take the U-BSCT or a comparable test like the GED or the TABE. This comparable test would have to be Utah State Office of Education Board authorized. The State Superintendent is comfortable with this, however there are still questions. As it stands right now, beginning January 1, 2006 all adult students receiving a regular diploma would have to take the U-BSCT. We are looking for letters of support from agencies that are impacted by this decision, for example the Salt Lake Skill Center, the Applied Technology Centers and Courts. Since U-BSCT is only available twice a year, it would impact adult students who get their diplomas throughout the year. It would really impair their ability to move forward when they are ready to graduate.

Other Business

Dave also presented a calendar of events with a timeline for presentations on adult education needs and activities. This timeline will be attached to the minutes.

Edie Mitko talked about the Governors conference on Literacy coming up next Tuesday.

Hector reported on the Latin American Institute of Communicative Education that is coming on line soon. One of the locations will be the Centro de la Familia de Utah in Salt Lake City. He also talked about the Breeze program, where students can learn English as a Second Language through the computer.

Agenda Items for November Meeting

- Shauna South will give information on the Utah Cares website.
- Sub-Committees will meet and develop their strategies for the next three months.
- The Committee will meet with the new directors appointed by the incoming governor.

Adjourn

Jim Andersen called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Wayne Mifflin moved to adjourn the meeting and Edie Mitko seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed. The next meeting will be held December 8, 2004 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in room 241.